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workers. The seventeen essays, despite their variety, convey a unified impression. The discussions of proposed remedies show, sometimes incidentally, sometimes explicitly, the inadequacy of any one agency and the need of their effective coördination for the relief of the waste and suffering now involved in women's industrial relations. The need of investigation to discover and define the sort of efficiency required, the value of different methods and agencies, the need for coöperation between school and employer, the desirability of experiment on private funds, and the importance of a better understanding of the character and position of the women workers, are all clearly stated more than once.

The compilation bears witness to the fact that women's conspicuous industrial difficulties are, in large measure, problems of modern industry, evident wherever industrial ignorance, inefficiency and low standards of living prevail, calling for solution by the same means that all wage-earners have found or may find useful. It is a matter for congratulation that the contributions of the editor, Mr. Martin and Mr. Freund may help to emphasize the obvious though sometimes neglected truth that women's problems are inevitably problems of society.

EMILIE LOUISE WELLS.

Vassar College.

Le Travail à Domicile: Ses Misères, les Remèdes. By G. MENY.
Librairie des Sciences Politiques et Sociales. (Paris: Rivière et Cie. 1910. Pp. 463.)

The writer of this volume has made a careful study of about three hundred European publications containing the results of investigations of home work. He finds that notwithstanding the mass of material available on this phase of the sweating system, the general public is ill-informed regarding the extent of home work, its causes and the conditions of life and labor that seem to be inseparably bound up with it. Naturally M. Mény gives most attention to the problem in France. He admits the practical impossibility of determining even approximately the number of home workers in that country, but submits evidence that there are more home workers in Paris alone than the census shows for the whole of France. He finds the principal cause for home work there to be that usually assigned by investigators in this country, namely, that the manufacturer does not care to go to the expense

of maintaining a shop of sufficient size decently to house his workers, and in addition he holds it more advantageous to bargain with isolated workers, some of whom are not wholly dependent upon the work, than to deal with shop workers who can unite in making a common demand for better pay. M. Mény's recital of all the harrowing consequences to the worker of labor conditions that admit only of a miserable existence is sympathetic to a very high degree. Yet he gives scarcely a half dozen pages to the strongest argument for the improvement of such conditions, namely, the great menace to the public health in manufacturing goods in the insanitary homes of generally undernourished and consequently unhealthy people.

The writer does not advocate the suppression of home work even though he calls it a "hideous cancer of the working class." He gives a resumé of the various remedies that have been proposed and tried in France and elsewhere, most of which are inadequate. Motive power in the home, in the sewing trades, does not seem to have lightened the labor, shortened the hours, or increased the daily earnings. Donations to the workers by charitable persons or organizations can not, of course, cover all home workers, entirely apart from the fact that the principle is fundamentally wrong. Trade unions and consumers' leagues, he maintains, do not furnish the solution of the problem. Even persons public spirited enough to become members of these organizations do not themselves make the sacrifices necessary to build up and strengthen them. The author does, however, give to the unions and consumers' leagues, particularly the latter, credit for improvement in certain conditions as regards home work.

M. Mény concludes that in the enactment of labor laws to protect the home from this extension of the factory system, lies the only remedy for the evils that all investigations prove to be common to home work. He cites the operation of the British labor laws protecting woman and child workers in the home and in the factory, and makes a strong case in favor of legal intervention in France.

Bureau of the Census, Washington.

EMMA DUKE.

La Protection de la Santé des Travailleurs du Commerce. By LOUIS DELPERIER. (Paris: A. Rousseau. 1910. Pp. vii, 230.)

The old and interesting truth that the problems of work and